Border District Cluster Strategy and operationalisation of Newborn Care.

Constitution of National Drug Authority

2223. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND EAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to constitute National Drug Authority;

(b) whether Government have decided to appoint an IAS officer as Head of the Authority; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Drug Policy 1994 had recommended the setting up of a National Drug Authority to undertake the regulatory functions performed by the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation in addition to assuming many new responsibilities. This would *inter alia* require major structural changes in the existing regulatory system, where licensing of manufacturers etc., as well as enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder, are primarily done by the State authorities. Strengthening of the existing capacity of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) would be necessary before undertaking the new responsibilities. There is currently no such proposal.

Enhancing the facilities in hospitals

†2224. SHRIMATI S A VITA SHARD A: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to enhance facilities in the hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Enhancing of facilities in hospitals is a continuous process. In so far as Central Government Hospitals *viz.* Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and LHMC and Associated Hospitals are concerned, the facilities required are assessed and enhanced from time to time within the available resources.

NICD report on epidemic in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal

2225. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

SHRI ANIL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a three-member expert team of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases is investigating into a strange epidemic in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal;

(b) whether the team has completed its work;

(c) if so, what are its findings; and

(d) the details of assistance given by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) After receiving information from Health Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh regarding admission of a few cases presenting with fever and haemoptysis (blood in sputum) in two hospitals of Shimla district and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, a team of experts from National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Delhi consisting of